



National Importance and Impact

ECR workshops 2017 Sheffield and Cardiff

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Overview of this presentation

- ■ ■ What do we mean by ‘National Importance’ and ‘Impact’?
- ■ ■ The bigger picture, putting these ideas in context
- ■ ■ **What do they mean for an investigator writing a grant proposal?**



■ ■ National Importance

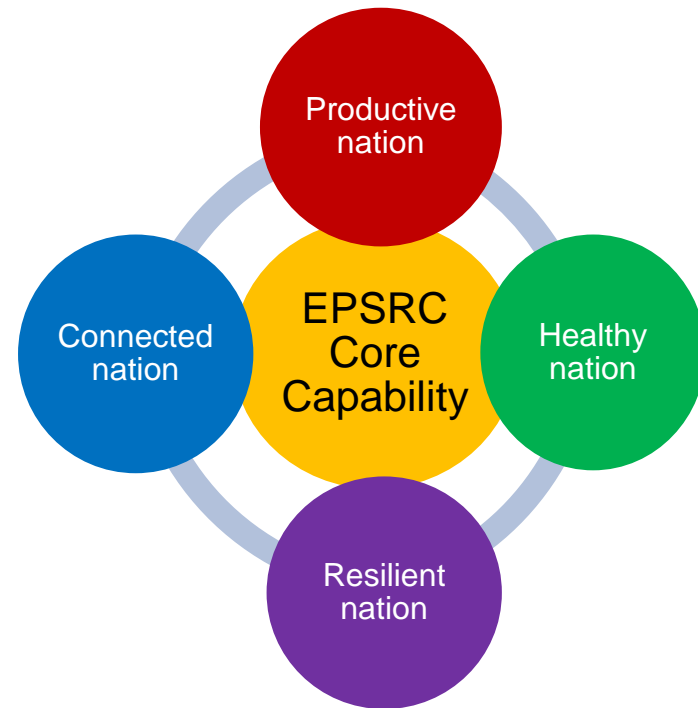
- ■ Why should the UK fund your research over another proposal?
- ■ What is the potential held within the research program proposed?
- ■ How could the UK benefit from the research being funded?

■ ■ (Pathways to) Impact

- ■ What are you, as the research team, going to do to increase the impact of the research proposed?
- ■ How will the appropriate people know of your work?
- ■ How will you enable the work to pass along the innovation chain?

National Importance of a research proposal can include how the work contributes to:

- ■ ■ maintaining the **health of other research disciplines**,
 - ■ ■ by establishing or maintaining a **unique world-leading research activity** (including areas of niche capability);
 - ■ ■ **by complementing other UK** research funded in the area or related areas in EPSRC's portfolio.
- ■ ■ addressing key UK **societal challenges**,
- ■ ■ contributing to current or future **UK economic success**, for example,
 - ■ ■ through increased productivity, connectedness, resilience and health.
 - ■ ■ through enabling the development of **key emerging industry(s)**

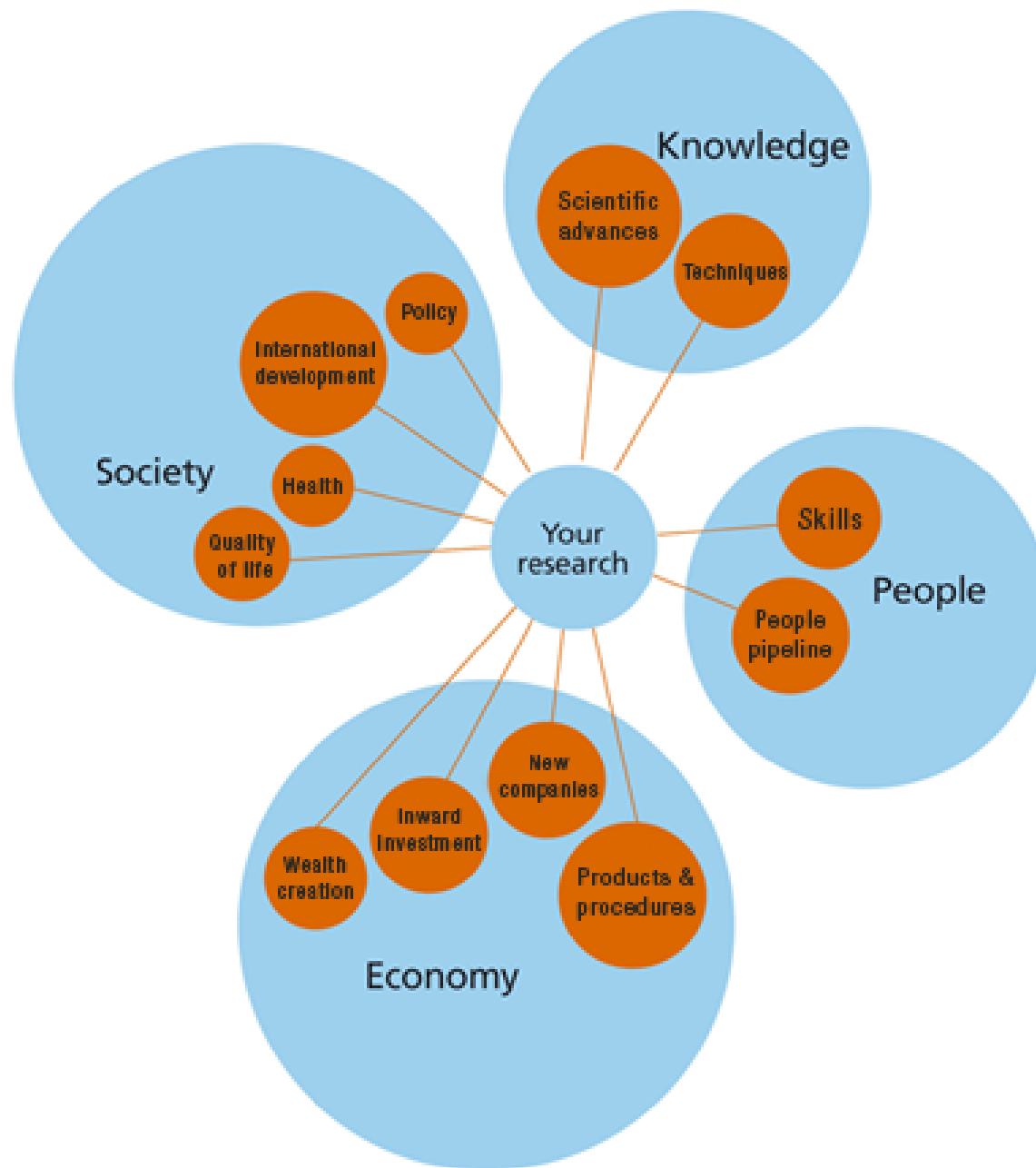


- National Importance is a **secondary criterion** in the peer review process (**after research quality**) – used to distinguish between proposals.

- Make sure you include a national importance statement in the case for support. Explain why your research is important in the context of:
 - EPSRC research area/theme strategies
 - Government reports
 - Industrial reports

- Some examples of good National Importance statements can be found on our website:
www.epsrc.ac.uk/funding/howtoapply/preparing/includingnationalimportance/





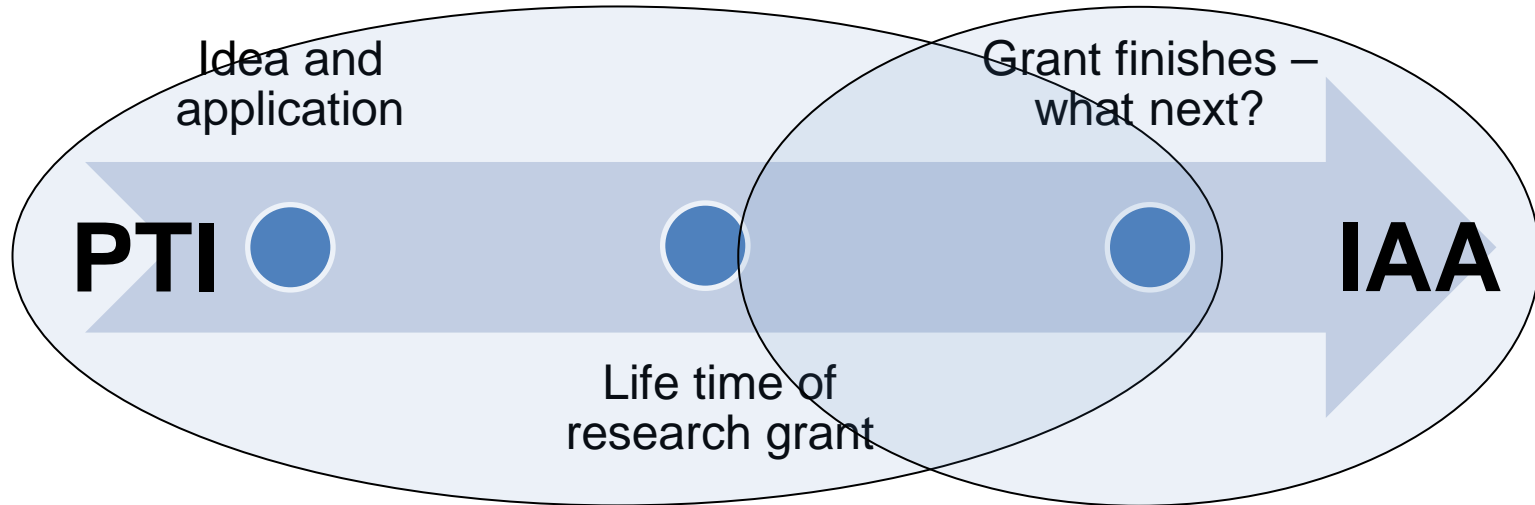
Factors to consider when writing a grant:

- ■ ■ What is the research team, going to do to increase the impact of the research proposed?
- ■ ■ How will the appropriate people know of your work?
- ■ ■ How will you enable the work to pass along the innovation chain?

Bear in mind that we expect to see different impacts from different research. There is no “magic formula” for impact - Reviewers will look for the most appropriate approach for the project, and for the sector.



Core Support for Impact Activities



- Harmonised policy across all research councils
- Now require a clearly thought through and acceptable **Pathways to Impact** plan as a condition of funding
- Separate attachment in Je-S (maximum of two A4 sides)
- An acceptable Pathways to Impact should:
 - Be project specific and not generalised;
 - Be flexible and focus on potential outcomes.
- Policy has been in effect at panels since 1 April 2015

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/newsevents/news/impactrevisedguidance/>

Accessible funding for tailored impact activities

- Account-based funding given to universities on the basis of a peer-reviewed business case. Based on algorithmic funding, covering 95% of our portfolio
- Allows institutions the **flexibility** to operate tailored schemes that facilitate increased likelihood of impact from research.
- Can be used for example for:
 - Secondments
 - Proof of Concept
 - Follow-On Funding

Different Impact from Different Research

**Policy &
Standard Setting**

**Public
Engagement**

**Ethical &
Cultural Issues**

**IP Development
& Spin-Outs**

**Consultancy
Services**

**Technology
Demonstrators**

**Science
Advocacy**

Web Presence

**Economic &
Societal Issues**

**Academic
Outputs**

**User
Engagement**

Trained People

Please remember

- ■ ■ **think about impact right from the start** – consider what you might need (resources) before you write your proposal
- ■ ■ **request resources** for pathways to impact – including Public Engagement
- ■ ■ **keep us informed of success stories** - we like to know what made it work!

Small table discussions

- ■ ■ What impacts would you like your research to have?
- ■ ■ What activities will enable your research to have this impact?
- ■ ■ How can you embed these activities into your research?
- ■ ■ What resources would you need to do this?

Feedback from the Group and summary

